

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-21, 23-52, 64-68, 70-78, 80-87, 92-96 and 99-116 are cancelled and claims 117-200 are added, whereby claims 117-200 will be pending, with claims 117, 140, 159, 166 and 180 being independent claims.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification and in the cancelled claims.

Applicants point out that the cancellation of claims 1-21, 23-52, 64-68, 70-78, 80-87, 92-96 and 99-116 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Summary of Final Office Action

Claims 1-3, 18-21, 78, 80 and 92-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fanara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,699,502 (hereafter "FANARA").

Claims 4-7, (12-14), 15-17, 23-36, 38-44, 47, 49-52, 72-77, 81-87, 99-111 and 114-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over FANARA in view of Jaeger, U.S. Patent No. 3,914,425 (hereafter "JAEGER").

Claims 8-11, 37, 45, 46, 112 and 113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being

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unpatentable over FANARA in view of JAEGER and further in view of Findlay et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,650,807 (hereafter "FINDLAY").

All claims under consideration are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable of claims of one or more of co-pending application Nos. 10/736,902, 10/910,806, 10/939,351, 11/012,267, 11/115,293 and 11/115,321.

Response to Office Action

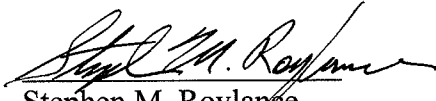
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action are respectfully requested. At any rate, since all of the rejected claims are cancelled, all of the rejections of record are moot.

With respect to the new claims submitted herewith, Applicants are unable to see that any of the documents relied upon by the Examiner teaches or suggests the (combination of) elements recited therein. These are additional reasons (i.e., in addition to the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief and the Reply Brief(s)) why FANARA in view of JAEGER and FINDLAY is unable to render obvious the subject matter of new claims 117-200.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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